

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An escutcheon for an appliance door assembly, said escutcheon comprising:

a front edge and a rear edge horizontally spaced from said front edge, said front and rear edges vertically depending from an escutcheon upper surface;

a control panel mounting portion comprising a mounting surface and a lower edge, said control panel mounting portion extending upwardly and inwardly from said lower edge and between said front and rear edges, said control panel mounting portion including a plurality of openings therethrough; and

a plurality of formations downwardly depending from said lower edge, said plurality of formations comprising a retaining slot configured to receive an appliance door panel and a plurality of positioning ribs extending into said retaining slot and configured to engage the appliance door panel, said plurality of positioning ribs comprising a reinforcing section configured to prevent flexing of said plurality of positioning ribs comprising:

a flange and a lip in combination defining a retaining slot configured to receive an appliance door panel such that said appliance door panel and said lower edge form a substantially flush surface, and

a plurality of positioning ribs extending into said retaining slot and configured to engage the appliance door panel, said plurality of positioning ribs comprising a reinforcing section configured to prevent flexing of said plurality of positioning ribs.

2. (canceled)

3. (withdrawn) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the panel comprises an outer panel with a curved outer surface, said ribs arranged beneath said lower edge to approximately match the curvature of the outer panel.

4. (previously presented) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of positioning ribs further comprises a guide surface extending at an acute angle with respect to a lip at least partially defining said slot.

5. (previously presented) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 4 wherein each of said plurality of positioning ribs further comprises a panel engagement portion extending from said guide surface defining said retaining slot.

6. (withdrawn) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising a curved front face extending beneath said lower edge.

7. (currently amended) An escutcheon for a dishwasher door assembly, said escutcheon comprising a lower edge of a control panel mounting portion and a plurality of formations depending therefrom, ~~said plurality of formations comprising a retaining slot configured to receive an appliance door pane and a plurality of positioning ribs extending into said retaining slot and configured to engage the upper edge of the appliance door panel, said plurality of positioning ribs comprising a reinforcing section configured to prevent flexing of said plurality of positioning ribs comprising:~~

~~a flange and a lip in combination defining a retaining slot configured to receive an appliance door panel such that said appliance door panel and said lower edge form a substantially flush surface, and~~

~~a plurality of positioning ribs extending into said retaining slot and configured to engage the upper edge of the appliance door panel, said plurality of positioning ribs comprising a reinforcing section configured to prevent flexing of said plurality of positioning ribs.~~

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 7 further comprising a panel engagement portion extending substantially parallel to a lip at least partially defining said retaining slot.

10. (withdrawn) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 7 wherein ~~said plurality of formations are located along a curved path.~~

11. (withdrawn) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 10 further comprising a control panel mounting surface, and a curved front face extending between said control panel mounting surface.

12. (withdrawn) An appliance door assembly comprising:

an outer door panel comprising an edge and an outer surface; and

an escutcheon attached to said edge, said escutcheon comprising a plurality of formations defining a retaining slot, said formations locating said outer surface within said slot when said edge is received in said slot.

13. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 12, said formations comprising a panel engagement portion and a guide surface extending at an angle from said panel engagement portion.

14. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said panel outer surface is curved, said formations depending from said escutcheon in a curved arrangement.

15. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 12, said escutcheon comprising a lip defining said retaining slot, said panel engagement portion extending substantially parallel to said lip.

16. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 12, said escutcheon comprising a lower edge, said lower edge substantially flush with said panel outer surface when said edge is received in said slot.

17. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said panel outer surface is curved.

18. (withdrawn) A dishwasher door assembly comprising:

an outer door panel comprising an edge and a curved outer surface; and

an escutcheon attached to said edge, said escutcheon comprising a plurality of formations defining a retaining slot, each said formation comprising a panel engagement portion, said panel engagement portion positioning said edge within said slot to that said panel outer surface is substantially flush with an outer surface of said escutcheon.

19. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 18, each said formation further comprising an angled guide surface extending from said panel engagement portion.

20. (withdrawn) A door assembly in accordance with Claim 18 wherein said outer surface of said escutcheon is curved.

21. (previously presented) An escutcheon in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising:

a lip extending from said lower edge; and

a flange extending from said lower edge and spaced from said lip to define said retaining slot, said flange extending at an acute angle with respect to said lip.